

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

An exceptional plural in Arabic

جمع منتهى الجموع

جمع منتهى الجموع (jam‘ muntahā al-jumū‘) is a special category of broken plurals (جمع التكسير) in Arabic.

◆ Definition

It refers to:

Any broken plural whose pattern ends with either:

- ألف + حرفان (an alif followed by two letters), or
- ألف + ثلاثة أحرف أوسطها ساكن (an alif followed by three letters, the middle one being sākin)

This is considered the “ultimate” or “final” form of plural patterns—hence the name منتهى الجموع (“the furthest limit of plurals”).

The word كلب has three different plurals:

كلاب

أَكْلَبُ

اكالِب

The last plural اكالِب is جمع منتهى الجموع since there is no further plural.

◆ Common Patterns (أوزان)

The most common patterns include:

- مَفَاعِل
- مَفَاعِيل
- فَعَائِل
- فَوَاعِل
- فَعَالِل

◆ Examples

1. On pattern مَفَاعِل

- مَسَاجِد → مَسْجِد (mosque → mosques)
- مَكَاتِب → مَكْتَب (office → offices)

2. On pattern مَفَاعِيل

- مِفْتَاح → مِفْتَاح (key → keys)

3. On pattern فَعَائِل

- قَبَائِل → قَبِيلَة (tribe → tribes)
- صَحَائِف → صَحِيفَة (scroll → scrolls)

4. On pattern فَوَاعِل

- نَوَافِد → نَافِذَة (window → windows)

- خَوَاتِم → خَاتِم (ring → rings)

5. On pattern فَعَالِل

- دِرَاهِم → دِرْهَم (dirham → dirhams)
- دِنَانِير → دِينَار (dinar → dinars)

◆ Key Grammatical Rule

جمع منتهى الجموع is:

✓ ممنوع من الصرف (diptote)

This means:

1. No tanwīn (no ة / ـة / ـه)
2. Takes fathah instead of kasrah in genitive (unless with ال or in idāfah)

◆ Examples in Sentences

- صَلَّيْتُ فِي مَسَاجِدَ كَثِيرَةٍ
→ “I prayed in many mosques”
(notice: مَسَاجِدَ has fathah, not kasrah)
- نَظَرْتُ إِلَى نَوَافِذِ الْبَيْتِ
→ “I looked at the windows of the house”

هذه مدارسُ عربيةٌ

These are Arabic schools.

زرتُ مدارسَ عربيةً

I visited Arabic schools.

مررتُ بِمَدَارِسَ عَرَبِيَّةٍ

I passed by the Arabic schools.

◆ Exception (Important)

If the word has:

- ال (definite article) or
- is in idāfah (construct)

Then it does take kasrah:

- فِي الْمَسَاجِدِ (now kasrah appears)
- فِي مَسَاجِدِ الْمَدِينَةِ